

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 04011 170932Z

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 EB-07 COME-00 DOTE-00 CAB-02 /059 W

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O 170906Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7769

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 4011

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, JA

SUBJECT: LOCKHEED AFFAIR: BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON JUSTICE
ADMINISTRATIVE VICE MINISTER, YASUYOSHI SHIONO

1. YASHUYOSHI SHIONO (60), WHO IS CHARGED WITH NEGOTIATING AN AGREEMENT FOR THE TRANSFER OF USG LOCKHEED INFORMATION, COMES FROM A LONG LINE OF JUSTICE MINISTRY OFFICIALS. HIS GRANDFATHER WAS A PUBLIC PROSECUTOR. HIS FATHER WAS ONE OF THE PROCURATORS WHO INVESTIGATED THE SO-CALLED "SIEMENS SCANDAL" IN 1914 AND LATER BECAME A MINISTER OF JUSTICE.

2. SHIONO IS DESCRIBED BY THE PRESS AS A MODEL PUBLIC SERVANT, PROVIDING COMPETENT, BUT QUIET LEADERSHIP TO THE JUSTICE MINISTRY. HE REPORTEDLY HAS TAKEN PRIDE IN THE FACT THAT HE HAS NOT TRAVELLED ABROAD AND REACTED WITH SOME RELUCTANCE WHEN THE INGERSOLL TESTIMONY GAVE RISE TO SUGGESTIONS THAT HE MIGHT BE DISPATCHED ON THIS MISSION. IN A POLITICAL GOSSIP COLUMN, PRIMIN MIKI IS REPORTED TO HAVE DESCRIBED SHIONO AS THE MOST APPROPRIATE MAN FOR THE JOB.

3. COMMENT: SHIONO IS NOT KNOWN DIRECTLY TO THE EMBASSY. MINISTRY AND OTHER SOURCES, HOWEVER, HAVE REPORTED THAT HE HAS NO KNOWN IDENTIFICATION WITH A PARTICULAR POLITICAL FACTION.

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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